

portion 17 of the blank opposite the segment are brought together in an over-lapping relation so that the blank assumes a cylindrical configuration ***with the seam S extending the length of the sleeve*** see FIG. 3 and 4.”  
(emphasis added)

Attached hereto are the drawing FIGS. 1-5 of Dunn et al which have been annotated in red to show the relationship of the pleat axes and the long and short dimensions ( $D_L$  and  $D_S$ , respectively). As can be especially seen in FIG. 5, when read in conjunction with the passage quoted above, the seam S is oriented parallel to the pleat axes. Moreover, the long dimensions  $D_L$  of the diamond-shaped apertures in the mesh are likewise oriented parallel – ***not*** transverse – to the pleat axes.

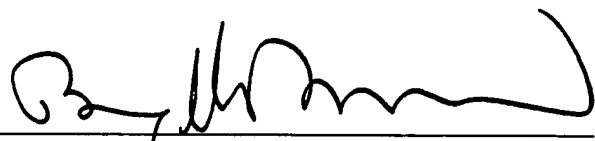
Neither Foo nor Ashelin et al cure the deficiencies of Miller et al and Dunn et al as outlined above. Hence, their combination with Miller et al and Dunn et al fail to render obvious the present invention.

In view of the evidence of record and the total lack of suggestion or contemplation in Miller et al and Dunn et al of the present invention as claimed herein, withdrawal of all rejections based on such references must be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX I**

**Marked-Up Version of Specification Paragraph(s) Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(b)**

Please change the paragraph on 3, line 18 bridging page 4, line 2 as follows:

The pleated filter media 16 is a multilayer structure which is most preferably provided by an inner filter membrane layer 16a which is sandwiched between a pair of apertured support layers 16b. The preferred filter membrane layer 16a is a PTFE membrane which is made microporous by stretching (typically biaxially) a PTFE film to create micropores therein. PTFE membranes that may be [sued] used are available commercially with a range of properties, such as pore diameter, thickness, engineering properties and the like. One particularly preferred PTFE membrane that may be employed in the practice of the present invention is available commercially from W.L. Gore & Co., Inc., under the registered trademark GORETEX®.

**APPENDIX II**

**Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(c)**

1. (Amended) A filter cartridge having a multilayer pleated filter media comprised of a filter membrane layer, and at least one support layer for the filter membrane layer, wherein said at least one support layer is an expanded polymeric film mesh, wherein pleats of the multilayer pleated filter media have elongate pleat axes disposed substantially parallel to a central longitudinal axis of the filter cartridge, and wherein said expanded polymeric film mesh is formed of a dense plurality of generally diamond-shaped apertures having respective long and short dimensions; and wherein said expanded polymeric film mesh is disposed such that said long dimensions of said diamond-shaped apertures thereof are oriented substantially transverse to said elongate pleat axes of the pleated filter media.

7. (Amended) A filter cartridge comprising:  
concentrically disposed slotted core and cage members, and  
a multilayer pleated filter media positioned in an annular space  
established between said core and cage members, wherein  
said filter media includes an inner filter membrane layer sandwiched  
between a pair of support layers for the filter membrane layer,  
wherein each said support layer is an expanded polymeric film  
mesh, and wherein  
pleats of the multilayer pleated filter media have elongate pleat axes  
disposed substantially parallel to a central longitudinal axis of the  
filter cartridge, and wherein  
said expanded polymeric film mesh is formed of a dense plurality of  
generally diamond-shaped apertures having respective long and  
short dimensions; and wherein

said expanded polymeric film mesh is disposed such that said long dimensions of said diamond-shaped apertures thereof are oriented substantially transverse to said elongate pleat axes of the pleated filter media.

Please cancel claim 12.

13. (Amended) The filter cartridge of claim [12] 1 or 7, wherein said filter media includes a pair of said support layers which sandwich said filter membrane layer therebetween.

14. (Amended) The filter cartridge of claim [12] 1 or 7, wherein each of said filter membrane layer and said expanded polymeric film consists of polytetrafluoroethylene.

15. (Amended) The filter cartridge of claim [12] 1 or 7, wherein said expanded polymeric film exhibits an open area of at least about 40%.

